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New Records and Range Extensions for Amphibians and Reptiles from Puebla, México

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The herpetofauna of the Mexican state of Puebla is poorly known (Flores and Gerez 1994); the only account for the state is that of Fugler and Webb (1956). Between 1996 and 2000 we conducted inventories of the herpetofauna of several municipalities in the state (Fig. 1). Our surveys were concentrated in the following areas and habitats: coffee plantations and cloud forest in the Sierra Norte; oak woodland, pine woodland, and cloud forest in the Sierra Negra Oriente; and arid scrub, semiarid deciduous forest, and tropical deciduous forest in the southern and central areas of Puebla.

Our surveys produced 22 new species records for the state and documented range extensions for eight others. All specimens were deposited in the herpetological collections of the Escuela de Biología de la Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México (EBUAP), and Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (MZFC). Identifications of all specimens were verified by Edmundo Pérez Ramos.

STATE RECORDS ANURA

Agalychnis moreletii (Morelet's Leaf Frog). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 0.7 km SW Yohualichan, 704 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°30'W). 31 August 1998. EBUAP 1041. Found on a branch of a bush near a pond, on which three tadpoles (Stages 27, 36, 37; Gosner 1960) of this species were found. Represents a range extension of about 140 km NW of previous localities in central Veracruz (Duellman 1970).

Eleutherodactylus spatulatus (Spatulate Robber Frog). Sierra Negra Oriente de Puebla: Municipality of San Pablo Zoquitlán: 2 km E Zoquitlán, 2155 m elev. (18°19'N, 97°00'W). 15 March 1997. EBUAP 1040. This specimen, a male, was found calling from a rock crevice. Previously recorded only from the states of Veracruz and Oaxaca (Campbell et al. 1989).

Eleutherodactylus verrucipes (Bigear Chirping Frog). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Las Hamacas, 425–530 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°27'W). 26 November 1997. EBUAP 1047–48; 0.15 km SE Santiago Yancuictlalpan, 545–565 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°28'W). 27 January 1998. EBUAP 1049–51; 1.5 km

NE Santiogpan, 500 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°29'W). 28 February 1998. EBUAP 1052; Tatahuitaltipan, 3 km SW of Yohualichan, 575 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°30'W). 1 March 1998. EBUAP 1053; 1.3 km ruins of Yohualichan, 675 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°30'W). 2 March 1998. EBUAP 1054–55; Reyetzogpan de Hidalgo, 605 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°29'W). 2 March 1998. EBUAP 1056; 1 km S San Miguel Tzinacapan, 840–860 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 25 April 1998. EBUAP 1110–11; Atepolihui, 790 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 25 April 1998. EBUAP 1109. Municipality of Zapotitlán de Méndez: 2.5 km NW Zapotitlán de Méndez, 905 m elev. 15 February 1998. EBUAP 1234. Municipality of Hutzilan de Serdán: 2 km SE Hutzilan de Serdán, 870 m elev. 30 November 1998. EBUAP 1236–37. Municipality of San Pedro Camocuautla, 1350 m elev. 21 December 1998. EBUAP 1238. Found under logs or rocks in the leaf litter on coffee plantations. Previously recorded only in the states of San Luis Potosí, Querétaro, and Hidalgo (Lynch 1970).

CAUDATA

Bolitoglossa platydactyla (Broadfoot Mushroomtongue Salamander). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 1 km SE Cuetzalan, 1020 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°31'W). 25 November 1997. EBUAP 1058; Cuahutapanaloyan: 3 km SW Santiago Yancuictlalpan, 460 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°27'W). 26 January 1998. EBUAP 1059; near Río Apulco, 275 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°26'W). 26 January 1998. EBUAP 1060; 1 km S Xocoyolo, 1350 m elev. (19°58'N, 97°32'W). 25 March 1998. EBUAP 1061; near border with Equimita, 1350 m elev. (19°57'N, 97°33'W). 25 March 1998. EBUAP 1062; El Rosario, 735 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°28'W). 26 May 1998. EBUAP 1063–65. Municipality of Zapotitlán de Méndez: 0.5 km W Zapotitlán de Méndez, near Zempoala bridge, 680 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°43'W). 15 May 1998. EBUAP 1143. Municipality of Hutzilan de Serdán: 3 km NW Hutzilan de Serdán, 935 m elev. (19°59'N, 97°42'W). 4 November 1998. EBUAP 1142. Found on a cattle ranch and coffee plantations in several microhabitats: under rocks and logs, in bromeliads, and inside leaf axils of plants. Records fill gaps in the known distribution of the species (Wake and Lynch 1976).

Lineatriton lineola (Veracruz Worm Salamander). Sierra Negra Oriente de Puebla: Municipality of San Pablo Zoquitlán: 2 km southeast of Zoquitlán, 1865 m elev. (18°19'N, 97°06'W). 17 March 1997. EBUAP 718. Found dead in a cloud forest. Although *Lineatriton* presently is monotypic, work in progress (D. B. Wake and colleagues) will alter the composition of this genus, and it is likely that our specimen represents an undescribed species (D. B. Wake, pers. comm.). Thus, its referral to *L. lineola* must be considered tentative. Previously known only from the state of Veracruz (Wake and Lynch 1976).

LACERTILIA

Diploglossus enneagrammus (Huasteca Lesser Galliwasp). Sierra Negra Oriente de Puebla: Municipality of Eloxochitlán: El Mirador, 1500 m elev. (18°29'N, 96°57'W). 17 December 1998. Male, EBUAP 1120. Found under a rock in a pine forest. Recorded previously only from localities in central Veracruz and northern Oaxaca (Campbell and Camarillo 1994).

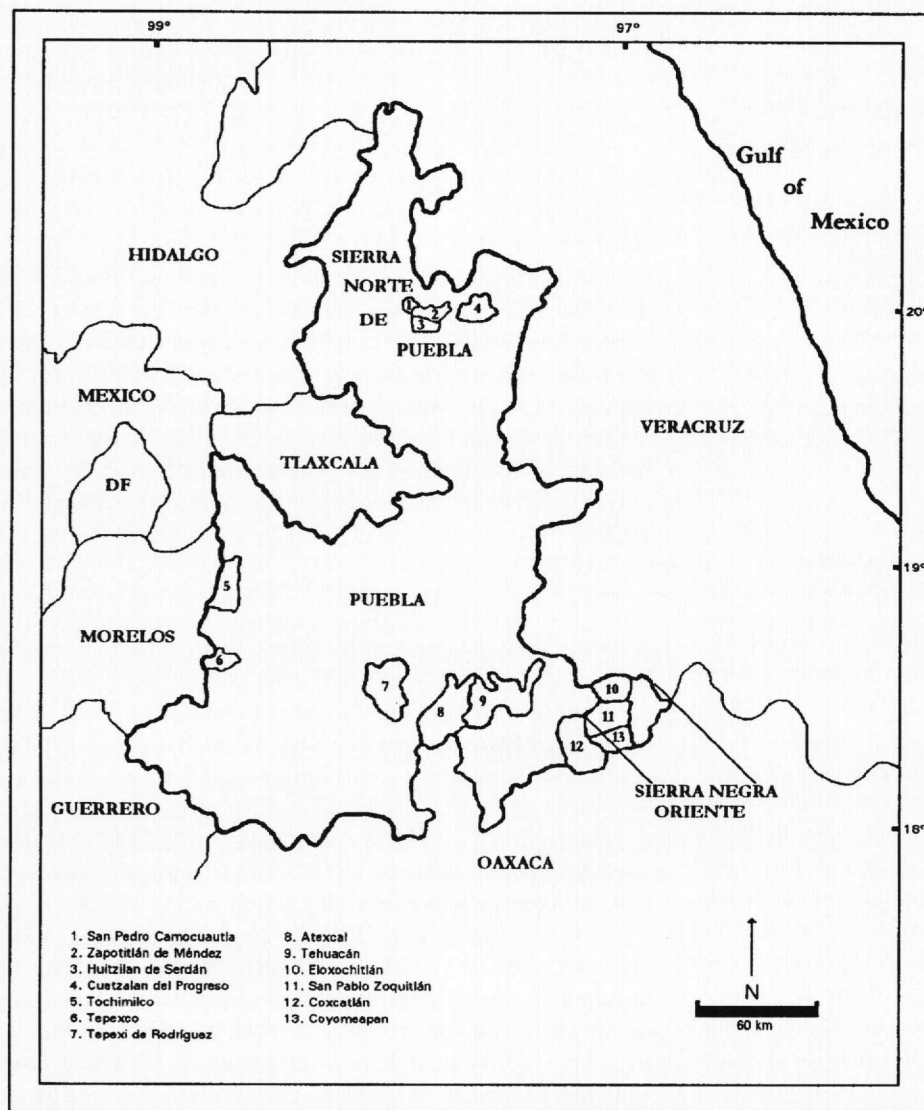


Fig. 1. A general map of the state of Puebla, México, showing the location of the municipalities mentioned in text.

Basiliscus vittatus (Brown Basilisk). Municipality of Coxcatlán: 0.05 km E of train station of Venta Salada, 1035 m elev. (18°14'N, 97°11'W). 28 June 1996. Female, EBUAP 760. Found in reeds near a water channel. Fills a gap in its previously known distribution (Lang 1989).

Corytophanes hernandezii (Hernandez's Helmeted Basilisk). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 2 km NE Zacatipan, 505 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°26'W). 14 July 1998. EBUAP 1106. Found in leaf litter on a coffee plantation. Fills a gap in its previously known distribution (Lang 1989).

Anolis laevis (White Anole). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 1 km SE Cuetzalan, 1065 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 22 October 1997. EBUAP 1072; El Rosario, 875 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°32'W). 20 December 1997. Male, EBUAP 1073; Octimaxal Sur: Entrance to the cave, 1310 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°32'W). 21 December 1998. Male, EBUAP 1074; 1 km S San Miguel Tzinacapan, 840 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 25 April 1998. Female, EBUAP 1075. Municipality of Zapotitlán de Méndez: El Puhuac: 1.5 km NW Zapotitlán de

Méndez, 850 m elev. (20°47'N, 97°43'W). 9 February 1998. EBUAP 1140; 0.5 km SW Zapotitlán de Méndez, 705 m elev. 14 February 1998. EBUAP 1141. Records fill gaps between previously known localities in central Veracruz and Hidalgo (Mendoza-Quijano and Nieto-Montes de Oca 1995).

Anolis sericeus (Silky Anole). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 1 km S San Miguel Tzinacapan, 845 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 25 April 1998. Female, EBUAP 1076; Octimaxal Norte, 805 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°30'W). 5 March 2000. EBUAP 2024. Found on a tree in a cultivated area. Records fill gaps in its previously known distribution (Lee 1980).

SERPENTES

Adelphicos quadrivirgatus (Middle American Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Zacatipan, 600 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°26'W). 27 November 1997. EBUAP 1094; Xalpanat, 885 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°28'W). 18 December 1997. EBUAP 1112; Finca San José: 4 km ENE Santiago Yancuictlalpan, 360 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°26'W). 29 January 1998. Female, EBUAP 1095; 1 km SW Yancuictlalpan, 665 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°28'W). 30 January 1998. Female, EBUAP 1096; 1.5 km E Yohualichan, 725 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°30'W). 1 March 1998. Female, EBUAP 1097;

Tatahuitaltipan: 3 km SW Yohualichan, 550 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°30'W). March 1998. Female, EBUAP 1098; Octimaxal Norte, 930 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°30'W). EBUAP 1099. Municipality of Huitzilán de Serdán: 1 km N El Paraiso, 720 m elev. 4 July 1999. EBUAP 1338. Found under logs on a coffee plantation and on a cattle ranch. The nearest records are from the foothills of the Sierra Madre Oriental, above the coastal plain, in central Veracruz (Campbell and Ford 1982).

Coniophanes fissidens (Yellowbelly Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Huitzilán de Serdán: Between Totutla and Taltzintan, 1110 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°44'W). 5 September 1998. EBUAP 1136. Found near a stream on a coffee plantation. Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 1 km SE San Andrés Tzicuilan, 1000 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°30'W). 4 May 1999. EBUAP 1146. The nearest locality records for this species are from central Veracruz (Bailey 1939).

Dryadophis melanolomus (Lizard Eater). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Las Hamacas, 350 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°27'W). 26 November 1997. Male, EBUAP 1100;

San Miguel Tzinacapan, 805 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 25 April 1998. EBUAP 1101; Zacatipan, 600 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°26'W). 11 July 1998. Female, EBUAP 1102; Zoquiapan: 1 km SE Cuetzalan (20°01'N, 97°30'W). 13 July 98. EBUAP 1103; Tacopixacta, 1045 m elev. (19°58'N, 97°30'W). 4 August 1998. EBUAP 1104; 2 km E Tzicuilan, 970 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°30'W). 18 September 1998. Male, EBUAP 1105. Municipality of San Pedro Camocuautla: between Tapayula and El Pasamanos, 1285 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°43'W). 15 August 1998. EBUAP 1138; 2.5 km S San Pedro Camocuautla, 940 m elev. 14 February 1998. EBUAP 1139. These specimens were found in coffee plantations, cloud or in pine-oak forests. Records fill gaps between previously known records (Stuart 1941).

Elaphe flavirufa (Tropical Rat Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Zapotitlán de Méndez: Near town of Zapotitlán, 640 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°42'W). 18 May 1998. EBUAP 1135. Nearest records for this species are from central Veracruz (Pérez-Higareda and Smith 1991).

Ficimia streckeri (Mexican Hooknose Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Santiago Yancuictlalpan, 600 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°28'W). 27 January 1998. EBUAP 1030; Octimaxal Norte, 880 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°30'W). 4 March 1998. Female, EBUAP 1029. Found under a rock on a coffee plantation. Southernmost record of the species, extending range about 79 km south from Castillo de Teayo, in northern Veracruz, and 138 km southeast from Zacualtipan, in northern Hidalgo (Hardy 1975).

Geophis semidoliatus (Coral Earth Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Octimaxal Norte, 880–930 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°30'W). 4 March 1998. EBUAP 1032–35; Xalpanat, 820 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°28'W). 29 May 1998. EBUAP 1036–1037. Found in cloud forest and on coffee plantations. The nearest locality records for this species are from central Veracruz (Downs 1967).

Imantodes gemmistratus (Central American Tree Snake). Municipality of Tepexco: Calmecca, 1300 m elev. (18°38'N, 98°37'W). 3 April 1999. EBUAP 1134. The nearest locality record for this species is about 82 km at Huajintlán, Hidalgo (Zweifel 1959).

Leptophis diplotropis (Pacific Coast Snake). Municipality of Tochimilco: San Francisco Huilango, 1870 m elev. (18°50'N, 98°34'W). 20 November 1997. EBUAP 1107. Pérez-Higareda and Smith (1989) speculated that this species could occur in Puebla.

Rhadinaea hesperia (Western Graceful Brown Snake). Municipality of San Antonio Cañada: near the town of San Antonio Cañada, 1835 m elev. (18°31'N, 97°17'W). 27 May 1997. EBUAP 707. Municipality of Tepexi de Rodríguez: near the town of Tepexi de Rodríguez, 1700 m elev. (18°34'N, 97°55'W). 20 November 1997. Male, EBUAP 708. Found in arid scrub habitat. The nearest locality previously known for this species is in the state of Morelos (Myers 1974).

Rhadinaea marcellae (Marcella's Graceful Brown Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Xalpanat, 820 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°28'W). 29 May 1998. Male, EBUAP 1133. Found near a waterfall in primary cloud forest. A specimen from near Tepango de Rodríguez, Puebla, was tentatively

referred to *R. marcellae* by Nieto-Montes de Oca and Mendelson (1997) because it had some characteristics of *R. marcellae* and some of *R. forbesi*. Our specimen is entirely consistent with the diagnostic characters of *R. marcellae* (Myers 1974; Nieto-Montes de Oca and Mendelson 1997), thus confirming the presence of this species in Puebla.

Scaphiodontophis annulatus (Guatemalan Neckband Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 2 km SE San Andrés Tzicuilan, 1000 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°30'W). 25 April 1999. Male, EBUAP 1137; 3.5 km SE San Andrés Tzicuilan, 1000 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°30'W). 4 May 1999. Female, EBUAP 1144; 1 km SE of San Andrés Tzicuilan, 985 m elev. 7 May 1999. EBUAP 1145. Found in leaf litter on coffee plantations. The nearest locality records are from central Veracruz (Pérez-Higareda and Smith 1991).

Ophryacus undulatus (Mexican Horned Pitviper). Sierra Negra Oriente de Puebla: Municipality of Coyomeapan: Coyomeapan, 2200 m elev. (18°16'N, 96°59'W). 13 May 1997. Female, EBUAP 722. Municipality of San Pablo Zoquitlán: 2 km southeast of Zoquitlán, 1825 m elev. (18°19'N, 97°06'W). 17 May 2000. EBUAP 2005–07. Found in an oak or pine-oak forest. Previously recorded only from the states of Hidalgo, Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Veracruz (Flores-Villela et al. 1992).

RANGE EXTENSIONS

Eleutherodactylus decoratus (Adorned Robber Frog). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 5 km S San Miguel Tzinacapan, near the grotto of Atepolihui, 880 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°32'W). 28 April 1998. EBUAP 1042–44. These males were calling in the rain at night in a cloud forest near Río Atepolihui. Previously known in Puebla from Tepango de Rodríguez, about 20 km to the East (Camarillo and Aguilar 1995).

Diploglossus legnotus. Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 0.1 km SW Xocoyolo, at entrance to a cave, 1450 m elev. (19°58'N, 97°32'W). 20 March 1998. EBUAP 1067; 2 km NE Xocoyolo, near Vista Hermosa, 1345 m elev. 22 March 1998. Male, EBUAP 1068; 3.5 km W Xocoyolo, 1210–1225 m elev. (19°59'N, 97°33'W). 24 March 1998. EBUAP 1069–70. Found inside fallen trunks of tree ferns or under logs and rocks on a cattle ranch surrounded by cloud forest. This recently described species was previously recorded only from its type locality of Tepango de Rodríguez (Campbell and Camarillo 1994). The current records extend the known range 27 km southeast of type locality.

Anolis naufragus (Hidalgo Anole). Sierra Negra Oriente de Puebla: Municipality of San Pablo Zoquitlán: Sección segunda de Zoquitlán, 2150 m elev. (18°19'N, 97°00'W). 23 June 1996. EBUAP 710; 2 km E Zoquitlán, 2155 m elev. (18°19'N, 97°00'W). 15 March 1997. MZFC 10478; 2 km SE Zoquitlán, 1870–2135 m elev. (18°17'N, 97°04'W). 16 March 1997. EBUAP 711–14, MZFC 10477. Found in rock crevices or on branches of bushes in cloud forest. Represent a range extension about 190 km southeast of the previous record for the state at Tepango de Rodríguez (Nieto-Montes de Oca 1994).

Scincella gemmingeri (Forest Ground Skink). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 5 km SE

Xocoyolo, near of Río Apulco, 920 m elev. (19°57'N, 97°32'W). 23 March 1998. EBUAP 1077; 3.5 km W Xocoyolo, 1225 m elev. (19°59'N, 97°33'W). 24 March 1998. Female, EBUAP 1078; El Rosario, 735 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°28'W). 26 May 1998. Female, EBUAP 1079; Xalpanat: Road to San Carlos, 870 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°28'W). 27 May 1998. Female, EBUAP 1080; border between Xalpanat and El Rosario, 805 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°28'W). 29 May 1998. Male, EBUAP 1081. Found in leaf litter and under logs. Previously known in Puebla only from Tepango de Rodríguez (Camarillo 1995), about 25 km west of our localities.

Lepidophyma sylvaticum (Madrean Tropical Night Lizard). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Las Hamacas, 325–420 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°27'W). 26 November 1997. Females, EBUAP 1082–84; Barranca Tzitzicapan, 0.1 km SE of Santiago Yancuicatlapan, 565 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°28'W). 27 January 1998. Female, EBUAP 1085; Between Tacoapan and Coapan, 400 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°28'W). 28 January 1998. Female, EBUAP 1086; Texochico: 2 km ENE Santiago Yancuicatlapan, 495 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°27'W). 29 January 1998. Female, EBUAP 1087; 0.2 km NE Santiogpan, 600 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°29'W). 28 February 1998. Female, EBUAP 1088; Tzonchomala, 540 m elev. (20°04'N, 97°30'W). 2 March 1998. Male, EBUAP 1089; 0.5 km SW San Miguel Tzinacapan, 850 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°32'W). 25 April 1998. Female, EBUAP 1090; 5 km SW San Miguel Tzinacapan, Montaña Alaxapota, 1100 m elev. (20°00'N, 97°33'W). 27 April 1998. Female, EBUAP 1091; Ayoapan, 860 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°31'W). 29 April 1998. Male, EBUAP 1092; Xalpanat, 670 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°28'W). 28 May 1998. Female, EBUAP 1114; border between El Rosario and Tenango, Río Cuitchat, 695 m elev. (20°01'N, 97°29'W). 29 May 1998. Female, EBUAP 1113; Zacatipan, 600 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°26'W). 10 July 1998. EBUAP 1093. Found under logs and in rock crevices on coffee plantations and in cloud forest. Previously known in Puebla only from Tepango de Rodríguez (Camarillo 1995), about 25 km west of our localities.

Xenosaurus rectocollaris (Pallid Knob-Scaled Lizard). Municipality of Tehuacán: 1 km NE Santa Ana Teloxtoc, 2170–2205 m elev. (18°23'N, 97°34'W). 1 October 1996. EBUAP 734–35. Municipality of San Martín Atexcal: Cerro Gordo in San Lucas Teteletitlán, 2502 m elev. (18°21'N, 97°38'W). 24 October 1996. EBUAP 736–37. Found in rock crevices in semiarid habitat. Previously known in Puebla only from a record near Chapulco (Smith and Iverson 1993), about 59 km northeast of our localities.

Coniophanes imperialis (Black-Striped Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: 1.5 km E Yohualichan, 725 m elev. (20°03'N, 97°30'W). 1 March 1998. EBUAP 1038; Zacatipan, 600 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°26'W). 11 July 1998. EBUAP 1039. The first specimen was found under a rock on a coffee plantation, the second was in the town proper. Previously known in Puebla only from Tuzamapan de Galeana (Mejenes-López et al. 1999), about 9 km northwest of our localities.

Tantilla morgani (Morgan's Black-headed Snake). Sierra Norte de Puebla: Municipality of Cuetzalan del Progreso: Octimaxal Norte, 930 m elev. (20°02'N, 97°30'W). 4 March 1998. EBUAP 1031. Known previously only from the holotype (Hartweg 1944) from Necaxa, about 57 km northwest of Octimaxal Norte. Second specimen of this rare endemic species from Puebla. In the original

description, the snout–vent length was not mentioned. The specimen reported herein has a snout–vent length of 440 mm, tail length of 30 mm (tail incomplete), and 151 ventrals (vs. 149 for the holotype).

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BOOK REVIEWS

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Patterns of Distribution of Amphibians—A Global Perspective, edited by William E. Duellman. 1999. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London. viii + 633 pp. Hardcover. US\$ 69.95. ISBN 0-8018-6115-2.

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The status of amphibian research has been greatly enhanced as a result of a series of landmark publications. The Vial-edited volume *Evolutionary Biology of the Anurans* (1973), Frost's *Amphibian Species of the World* (1985), Duellman and Trueb's comprehensive textbook, *Biology of Amphibians*, the ongoing series *Amphibian Biology* edited by Hal Heatwole (providing a parallel with the respected *Biology of the Reptilia*), and more recently (1999), McDiarmid and Altig's *Tadpoles—The Biology of Anuran Larvae*, have all helped to raise the profile of amphibians as a major interest group. At long last, amphibian biology seems to have come of age and is gradually taking its place alongside bird and mammal research. This change originated in the US, and has motivated the efforts of researchers around the world. There can be no doubt that *Patterns of Distribution of Amphibians* is destined to become the standard reference on amphibian zoogeography. It is an impressive book containing a breathtaking wealth of detail, while at the same time encompassing an extraordinarily broad subject area. Bill Duellman has assembled, managed and, it appears, cajoled a team of eight eminent amphibian workers from across the world to produce a remarkable reference volume. Much of the material included in the book was originally prepared for a symposium on amphibian distributions held at the Second World Congress in Adelaide in December 1993. That the volume was completed with no little pain to both its editor and the contributors is evident from a typically dry Bill Duellman comment in the Preface: "This project has evolved since the World Congress, as have the amphibians of the world and, indeed, even the position of the major tectonic plates"(!). The production of specialist scientific works like *Patterns* represent a considerable act of faith and goodwill on the part of editors, contributors, and publishers around the world; long may such efforts continue.

The inclusion of such an enormous mass of detailed information makes the book a daunting proposition for both reviewer and newcomer alike. Tables, charts, complex diagrams, and maps abound, together with comprehensive lists and appendices summarizing the geographical and altitudinal ranges of not merely hundreds but thousands of species across the world. The advice to the reader, particularly a final-year undergraduate or new post-graduate reader is, 'Take a deep breath—and plunge in.' For the specialist, biased in respect of a particular geographical area, there is much to be gained from a well-written account of his/her chosen region and still more from reading about other areas. For the novice, the detail may be more than is wanted or needed; selective

Vacancy in Herpetology

*The National Museum of Natural History, Leiden,
The Netherlands has a vacancy for the position of*

Deputy Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians

(male/female)
(32 hours per week)

Because the present Head of the Department of Vertebrates and Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles has become involved in international nature conservation matters, a task consuming a large part of his time, and necessitating considerable travel abroad, as of January 1, 2001 a temporary position has been opened for two years for a herpetologist to look after most aspects of the work of the Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians.

Depending on acquired skills and published results a salary of Dfl. 65.000 – 90.000 per year (including vacation allowance and incorporation into the Pensionfund) can be offered.

For further information about the function (requirements and tasks) see the internet page of the museum (www.naturalis.nl) for a full advertisement text (click on "Algemeen" and "Vacatures") or contact Dr. M.S. Hoogmoed, tel. +31 71 5687618, e-mail: hoogmoed@nnm.nl.